



## Spotlight on the District

# Larry Barnett

## District Counsel

**L**arry Barnett joined the Rock Island District May 8, as the new district counsel. His Army career includes six years as assistant district counsel in the St. Louis District, eighteen years as assistant division counsel in the Mississippi Valley (formerly Lower Mississippi Valley) Division and assignment to the Litigation Branch of the chief counsel's office.

Barnett was born in Memphis, Tenn. He received a bachelor of arts degree and Juris Doctorate degree from Memphis State University, Memphis, Tenn., in 1970 and 1973 respectively, and a Master of Laws - Environmental Law degree from George Washington University, Washington, D.C., in 1978.

Following private practice in Memphis, Barnett began working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Feb. 18, 1975, and is a member of the Tennessee Bar. He was the recipient of the Corps of Engineers Graduate Fellowship in Water Resources and Environmental Law, and earned the E. Manning Seltzer Award for Special Contributions to Legal Services. He has received the Mississippi Valley Division Professional Employee of the Year Award, and the Mississippi Valley Division Commander's Award for Civilian Service.

Before Barnett even arrived at the Rock Island District he was excited about getting back to the district level.

"I was familiar with the Rock Island District from the division perspective," said Barnett. "I looked forward to getting back to the District level and the 'cradle to

sional quality of legal services established by Tom Crane and the present staff," said Barnett.

District employees are encouraged to seek out Barnett's legal advice at anytime.

"I want to emphasize the availability of the office to respond to any ethical question that may arise in the course of government service."

In fact, Barnett stresses how important it is for employees to inform him and his staff of Corps legal matters before they become legal problems.

"The practice of preventive law is critical," said Barnett. "We prefer to be very proactive in identifying potential legal issues and resolving the problems before disputes or litigation arises, and we depend on our clients (District staff) to alert counsel to such problems as soon as possible to allow us to work with clients and find an early resolution."

Barnett is married to his wife of 29 years; they have a

daughter currently in her sophomore year at the University of Missouri.

He is active in his church, enjoys singing, drama and has a Standard Long-Haired Dachshund that he shows in confirmation and field trials.


In July 1999, Barnett starred as an extra in the upcoming fall release of "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" It stars George Clooney and John Goodman. 



Photo by Mark Kane, Public Affairs

**Larry Barnett, District Counsel, pages through one of the many legal books he references on a regular basis.**

the grave' implementation of the Corps' mission. I also looked forward to the variety of Rock Island District missions. My background is heavily weighted to environmental law, admiralty (maritime law) and civil works.

Barnett not only looks forward to the District's diverse programs, but the challenges they present.

"I have to maintain the high profes-

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### On the Cover

#### May 1931

Low water looking northeast from Arsenal Island. In the early years before navigation improvements, the Mississippi River experienced wide fluctuations of high and low water. Backwater fish and wildlife habitat was nonexistent prior to the dam construction and pooling of the river. During many summer seasons, low water completely stopped traffic on the Mississippi.

Oftentimes, water levels were low enough to walk across the river from Iowa to Illinois. Here, three residents walk on the floor of the Mississippi.

Turn to page 14 to see this same locations on the river today.